March 15, 12000

Honorable Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board ATTN: STB Ex Parte No. 582 1925 K St. NW Washington, DC 20433-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

ENTERED Office of the Secretary

MAR 16 2000

Part of Public Record



Having now hald the opportunity to review the transcript of my oral testimony of March 10th, it appears to be there might be some confusion about the position of the state of Illinois regarding a moratorium on rail mergers. To clarify our position, let me just set forth that the state of Illinois has no position at this time on whether or not a moratorium would be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Merrill L. Travis

Chief, Bureau of Railroads